

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on March 18, 2011 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takamoto et al (US 6,249,377, hereinafter "Takamoto"). Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this paper, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations recited in claim 4. Claims 8, 10 and 14 are rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 is canceled. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 6, 8-10 and 13-14 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication in the Office Action that claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 4. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 13 is believed to be allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1. Allowable 8, 10 and 14 are rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 3, 6, and 9 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 8 or 14.

Foreign Priority Claim

Acknowledgment of Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) or (f) and receipt of the certified copies of the priority document(s) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **502447**.

Respectfully submitted,

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